

(b) At present Bleaching Earth is being manufactured in Small Scale Sector only. The exact quantity of Bleaching Earth produced by them is not readily available. However, according to the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, the production of known units during 1987-88 was of the order to 34,640 tonnes.

(c) and (d) Since the requirement of Bleaching Earth is being met through indigenous source only, question does not arise.

National Awards to drug companies

1597. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the drug companies which have received National Awards for R & D work announced in 1988;

(b) what is Government's policy to encourage and reward companies which receive national recognition in R & D;

(c) whether the awards given to drug companies were on the basis of recommendations of the Department of Science and Technology; and

(d) what has been the specific work done by the drug companies which received national award in 1988, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) M/s. Wockhardt Ltd. Bombay and M/s. CIPLA Limited, Bombay, are the two drug companies which have received the National Awards for R&D work in 1988. These awards were instituted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, as part of Government's policy to reward and

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encourage industrial research and technological development. The awards are given to drug companies based on the recommendations of the expert committees, constituted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which scrutinised the applications for National Awards.

(d) National Award for R&D efforts in industry was presented to M/s. Wockhardt Ltd., Bombay in recognition of their efforts for successful commercialisation of technology for manufacturing Dextropropoxyphene originally developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for the year 1988. National Award for R&D efforts in industry was presented to M/s. CIPLA Ltd., Bombay in recognition of their efforts for successful commercialisation of technology for manufacture of two important drugs namely (1) Gugulpid a lipid lowering agent and (2) Vinblastine/Vincristine, Anti-cancer drugs developed by CDRI, Lucknow and NCL, Pune for the year 1988.

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

1598. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) what is the number of post offices in Tamil Nadu, District-wise as on 31st March, 1989; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more post offices in Ramana-thapuram, Pasumpon, Thevar, Coimbatore and Kamarajar Districts, if so, by when they are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a)
The information is furnished in the
enclosed statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir. The information is
furnished in the enclosed statement-
II. The Post Offices listed therein are
expected to be opened within about 3
months' time.

Statement I

TAMIL NADU

Number of Post Offices functioning in each District

Sl. No.	District	No. of post offices
1	Madras	207
2	Chengai Anna	860
3	North Arcot	1124
4	Dharamapuri	560
5	Salem	930
6	Periyar	664
7	Coimbatore	392
8	Nilgiris	173
9	South Arcot	916
10	Tanjavur	1293
11	Tiruchirapalli	1088
12	Madurai	665
13	Dindugal. Qaide-Millat	370
14	Pudukkottai	258
15	Pasumpon Thevar Tirumagan	371
16	Ramanathapuram	231
17	Kamarajar	299
18	V. O. Chidambaranar	748
19	Nellai Kattabomman	242
20	Kanyakumari	243
		11634

Statement II

TAMIL NADU

Post Offices to be opened by 31-7-1989 in Ramanathapuram/Pasumpon Thevar Tirumagaon/ Coimbatore and Kamarajar District

Districts	Name of post offices
Ramanathapuram	(1) North Andakudi (2) Ali Madurai
Pasumpon Thevar	(1) Siramam (2) Alagapuri (3) Ulithamadaï (4) Brahmanapatti (5) Melamaruganur
Coimbatore	(1) Jothampatti (2) Zamin Kattampatti
Kamarajar	(1) R. Kandumadaï (2) Sennalkudi

Development of petrochemical projects

1599. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 12 Member study group under the Chairmanship of the Planning Commission Member, Shri Abid Hussain, has finalised its recommendations for locating the new petro-chemical projects as well as for the expansion of existing projects in the country during the coming decade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) and (b) The Study Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain Member, Planning Commission to identify 8th Plan Projects in the petro-chemical sector on which advance action is to be taken was an internal

advisory Committee of the Government. The reports of such committees are meant to facilitate decision taking process in the Government and are not publicised.

Naphtha Cracker Unit at Madras

1600. SHRIMATI VENNA VERMA: SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a hundred per cent export oriented Naphtha Cracker Unit at Madras by a private sector company in co-operation with a West German firm;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the German firm is being asked to prepare a comprehensive economic and feasibility report within a few months; and